REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 19 and 27 have been amended. New, dependent claims 32-34 have been added. No new matter has been added.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The pending claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over combinations of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0133066 to *Ono et al.* ("*Ono*"), JP Published Patent Application No. 10-098190 to *Kubota* ("*Kubota*"), U.S. Patent No. 4,821,092 to *Noguchi* ("*Noguchi*"), U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0066481 to *Hong et al.* ("*Hong*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,091,467 to *Kubo* ("*Kubo*"). Applicants respectfully traverse, noting that none of these references, singly or in combination, discloses every element of any of the pending claims as amended. More specifically, none discloses or suggests source and drain electrodes with branches extending toward each other or arranged in alternating manner, nor do any of the above references disclose or suggest a shielding electrode with an applied voltage lower than a common electrode voltage.

First, none of the above references discloses or suggests source and drain electrodes with branches extending toward each other, or arranged in alternating manner. In particular, none of the above references appears to disclose any such source/drain electrode configurations. Claim 1 as amended is thus patentable over each of the above references, singly or in combination, for at least the reasons that it recites a "source electrode and the drain electrode each having branches, the branches of the source electrode extending toward the drain electrode, the branches of the drain electrode extending toward the source electrode, and the branches of the source electrode arranged in alternating manner with the branches of the drain electrode."

Second, none of the above references discloses or suggests a shielding electrode with an applied voltage lower than a common electrode voltage. The latest Office Action asserts that "Ono teaches a shielding electrode is supplied with a predetermined voltage." This is, respectfully, incorrect. *Ono* does not appear to disclose any shielding electrode at all, and thus cannot disclose a shielding electrode with an applied voltage lower than a common

electrode voltage. The cited portions of *Ono* at most only disclose voltages applied to common electrodes or pixel electrodes, not shielding electrodes. The latest Office Action also asserts that "Kubota teaches the predetermined voltage supplied to the shielding electrode is equal to or lower than a ground voltage." This is also, respectfully, incorrect. *Kubota* teaches a light-shading film 3 that is connected to an "earth wiring 12," or ground, via a transparent electrode layer 2 (Abstract). Thus, *Kubota* teaches a light-shading film 3 that is grounded. As light-shading film 3 is grounded, it cannot support any applied voltage. None of the remaining references cures this deficiency, as none appears to disclose or suggest any shielding electrode with an applied voltage lower than a common electrode voltage.

Claims 9 and 27 as amended are thus each patentable over the above references, singly or in combination, for at least the reason that they each recite "a common electrode facing the pixel electrode" and "when a common voltage is applied to a common electrode, a voltage lower than the common voltage is applied to the first shielding electrode, so that the first shielding electrode provides a common voltage shielding for the area on which it is disposed." Similarly, claim 19 as amended is patentable for at least the reason that it recites "a common electrode facing the pixel electrode" and "when a common voltage is applied to a common electrode, a voltage lower than the common voltage is applied to the shielding electrode, so that the shielding electrode provides a common voltage shielding for the area on which it is disposed."

The remaining pending claims each depend from one of claims 1, 9, 19, and 27. Each of these dependent claims is thus also patentable for at least these same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, it is submitted that the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Authorization is given to charge any fees due or credit any overpayments in regard to this communication to deposit account 50-5029. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (408) 331-1671 is welcomed and encouraged.

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